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DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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March 29, 1993

Mr. James Bauer  
U.S. Dept. of Energy  
PO Box 550, A5-15  
Richland, WA 99352-0550



Dear Mr Bauer:

Re: Tank Waste Barriers, M-06-00

I was asked to comment on the type of closure for single shell tanks after the waste has been retrieved. This question was asked during a presentation on subsurface barriers that I attended on March 24. It was pointed out at that meeting that all the retrieval options considered were contingent upon regulatory permission to close the site as a landfill.

After conferring with my supervisor, I can now answer this question definitively. A tank farm can be closed as a landfill provided that it is cleaned up down to the waste barrier. The site will be required to be cleaned up whether or not there is any evidence of leakage during retrieval operations.

This means that the least costly cleanup will require the most shallow barrier.

If you have any questions about this letter, call me at (206) 438-7558.

Sincerely,

Gary Anderson, P.E.  
Nuclear and Mixed Waste Management Program



GA:lj

cc:

Gerald Bazinet, WHC  
Dan Duncan, EPA  
Robert Heigel, DOE



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